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MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING INTERFERENCE IMMUNE DEVICE

PRIORITY INFORMATION

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This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) from US Provisional Patent Application, Serial Number 60/482,177, filed on June 24, 2003. The entire content of US Provisional Patent Application, Serial Number 60/482,177 is hereby incorporated by reference.

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

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The subject matter of co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 09/885,867, filed on June 20, 2001, entitled "Controllable, Wearable MRI-Compatible Cardiac Pacemaker With Pulse Carrying Photonic Catheter And VOO Functionality"; co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 09/885,868, filed on June 20, 2001, entitled "Controllable, Wearable MRI-Compatible Cardiac Pacemaker With Power Carrying Photonic Catheter And VOO Functionality"; co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 10/037,513, filed on January 4, 2002, entitled "Optical Pulse Generator For Battery Powered Photonic Pacemakers And Other Light Driven Medical Stimulation Equipment"; co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 10/037,720, filed on January 4, 2002, entitled "Opto-Electric Coupling Device For Photonic Pacemakers And Other Opto-Electric Medical Stimulation Equipment"; co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 09/943,216, filed on August 30, 2001, entitled "Pulse width Cardiac Pacing Apparatus"; co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 09/964,095, filed

on September 26, 2001, entitled "Process for Converting Light"; and co-pending US Patent Application Serial Number 09/921,066, filed on August 2, 2001, entitled "MRI-Resistant Implantable Device". The entire contents of each of the above noted co-pending US Patent Applications (Serial Numbers: 09/885,867; 09/885,868; 10/037,513; 10/037,720; 09/943,216; 09/964,095; and 09/921,066) are hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a device for protecting a patient, physician, and/or electronic components in an electrical device implanted or partially implanted within the patient. More particularly, the present invention is directed to a device for protecting the conductive parts of the electrical device from current and voltage surges induced by magnetic resonance imaging systems' oscillating magnetic fields.

BACKGROUND OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Magnetic resonance imaging ("MRI") has been developed as an imaging technique adapted to obtain both images of anatomical features of human patients as well as some aspects of the functional activities and characteristics of biological tissue. These images have medical diagnostic value in determining the state of the health of the tissue examined. Unlike the situation with fluoroscopic imaging, a patient undergoing magnetic resonance imaging procedure may remain in the active imaging system for a significant amount of time, e.g. a half-hour or more, without suffering any adverse effects.

In an MRI process, a patient is typically aligned to place the portion of the patient's anatomy to be examined in the imaging volume of the MRI apparatus. Such an MRI apparatus typically comprises a primary electromagnet for supplying a constant magnetic field (B_0) which, by convention, is along the z-axis and is substantially homogeneous over the imaging volume and secondary electromagnets that can provide linear magnetic field gradients along each of three principal Cartesian axes in space (generally x, y, and z, or x_1 , x_2 and x_3 , respectively). The MRI apparatus also comprises one or more radio frequency coils that provide excitation and detection of the MRI induced signals in the patient's body.

The gradient fields are switched ON and OFF at different rates depending on the MRI scan sequence used. In some cases, this may result in a changing magnetic field on the order of $dB/dt = 50 \text{ T/s}$. The frequency that a gradient field may be turned ON can be between 200Hz to about 300kHz.

5 For a single loop with a fixed area, Lenz's law can be stated as:

$$EMF = - A \circ dB/dt$$

10 where **A** is the area vector, **B** is the magnetic field vector, and "o" is the vector scalar product. This equation indicates that an electro-motive-force (EMF) is developed in any loop that encircles a changing magnetic field.

In an MRI system, there is applied to the biological sample (patient) a switched gradient field in all 3 coordinate directions (x-, y-, z- directions). If the patient has an implanted heart pacemaker (or other implanted devices having conductive components)
15 the switched gradient magnetic fields (an alternating magnetic field) may cause:

1. Erroneous signals to be induced/generated in a sensing lead or device or circuit;
2. Damage to electronics; and/or
- 20 3. Harmful stimulation of tissue, e.g. heart muscle, nerves, etc.

As noted above, the use of the MRI process with patients who have implanted medical assist devices; such as cardiac assist devices or implanted insulin pumps; often presents problems. As is known to those skilled in the art, implantable devices (such as
25 implantable pulse generators (IPGs) and cardioverter/ defibrillator/pacemakers (CDPs)) are sensitive to a variety of forms of electromagnetic interference (EMI) because these enumerated devices include sensing and logic systems that respond to low-level electrical signals emanating from the monitored tissue region of the patient. Since the sensing systems and conductive elements of these implantable devices are responsive to changes
30 in local electromagnetic fields, the implanted devices are vulnerable to external sources of severe electromagnetic noise, and in particular, to electromagnetic fields emitted

during the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) procedure. Thus, patients with implantable devices are generally advised not to undergo magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) procedures.

To more appreciate the problem, the use of implantable cardiac assist devices during a MRI process will be briefly discussed.

The human heart may suffer from two classes of rhythmic disorders or arrhythmias: bradycardia and tachyarrhythmia. Bradycardia occurs when the heart beats too slowly, and may be treated by a common implantable pacemaker delivering low voltage (about 3 V) pacing pulses.

The common implantable pacemaker is usually contained within a hermetically sealed enclosure, in order to protect the operational components of the device from the harsh environment of the body, as well as to protect the body from the device.

The common implantable pacemaker operates in conjunction with one or more electrically conductive leads, adapted to conduct electrical stimulating pulses to sites within the patient's heart, and to communicate sensed signals from those sites back to the implanted device.

Furthermore, the common implantable pacemaker typically has a metal case and a connector block mounted to the metal case that includes receptacles for leads which may be used for electrical stimulation or which may be used for sensing of physiological signals. The battery and the circuitry associated with the common implantable pacemaker are hermetically sealed within the case. Electrical interfaces are employed to connect the leads outside the metal case with the medical device circuitry and the battery inside the metal case.

Electrical interfaces serve the purpose of providing an electrical circuit path extending from the interior of a hermetically sealed metal case to an external point outside the case while maintaining the hermetic seal of the case. A conductive path is provided through the interface by a conductive pin that is electrically insulated from the case itself.

Such interfaces typically include a ferrule that permits attachment of the interface to the case, the conductive pin, and a hermetic glass or ceramic seal that supports the pin within the ferrule and isolates the pin from the metal case.

A common implantable pacemaker can, under some circumstances, be susceptible to electrical interference such that the desired functionality of the pacemaker is impaired. For example, common implantable pacemaker requires protection against electrical interference from electromagnetic interference (EMI), defibrillation pulses, electrostatic discharge, or other generally large voltages or currents generated by other devices external to the medical device. As noted above, more recently, it has become crucial that cardiac assist systems be protected from magnetic-resonance imaging sources.

Such electrical interference can damage the circuitry of the cardiac assist systems or cause interference in the proper operation or functionality of the cardiac assist systems. For example, damage may occur due to high voltages or excessive currents introduced into the cardiac assist system.

Moreover, problems are realized when the placement of the implant is next to particular organs. For example, when a pacemaker is placed in the upper chest and the lead tip is placed into the heart, a loop (an electrical loop) is created. A changing magnetic field (the switched gradient field) over the area of the loop (through the area of the loop) will cause an induced voltage (and current) across the heart. This induced voltage (current) can stimulate the heart inappropriately and can cause heart damage or death.

Therefore, it is desirable to provide a medical device or system that reduces or eliminates the undesirable effects of changing magnetic fields from an MRI system on the medical devices and/or patients undergoing medical procedures or that have temporary or permanent implanted materials and/or devices with conducting components.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

A first aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a sensing circuit to sense voltages induced in conductive components of the device, the voltages being induced by changing magnetic fields and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the sensing circuit and responsive thereto, to provide opposing voltages to the device to reduce the effects of induced voltages caused by changing magnetic fields.

A second aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a tissue invasive medical tool to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a sensing circuit to sense voltages induced in conductive components of the medical tool, the voltages being induced by changing magnetic fields; a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the sensing circuit and responsive thereto, to provide opposing voltages to the medical tool to reduce the effects of induced voltages caused by changing magnetic fields; and a connection device to provide an electrical connection between the sensing circuit and the compensation circuit and the medical tool.

A third aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a communication circuit, communicatively linked to a MRI system, to receive information associated with a start and end of an application of changing magnetic fields produced by the MRI system and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the communication circuit and responsive thereto, to synchronize application of opposing voltages to the device with the sensed changing magnetic fields, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

A fourth aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a communication circuit, communicatively linked to a MRI system, to receive information associated with a start and end of an application of changing magnetic fields produced by the MRI system and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the communication circuit and responsive thereto, to apply opposing voltages to the device, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

A fifth aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a device having a single wire line, the single wire line having a balanced characteristic impedance. The voltage compensation unit includes a tunable compensation circuit, operatively connected to the wire line, to apply supplemental impedance to the wire line, the supplemental impedance causing the

characteristic impedance of the wire line to become unbalanced, thereby reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by changing magnetic fields.

Another aspect of the present invention is a system for reducing the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The system includes a medical device wherein the medical device has a housing having electronic circuitry therein, a first lead to provide an electrical path for a stimulation signal generated by the electronic circuitry to be applied to a desired tissue region, a second lead to provide an electrical path for a sensed physiological condition of the desired tissue region to be communicated to the electronic circuitry, and a third lead to provide an electrical ground. The system also includes a diode, operatively connected to the first lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the first lead to the electronic circuitry.

A further aspect of the present invention is a system for reducing the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The system includes a MRI system; a medical device; and a transceiver to provide communication between the MRI system and the medical device. The medical device has a housing having electronic circuitry therein, a bi-directional lead to provide an electrical path for a stimulation signal generated by the electronic circuitry to be applied to a desired tissue region and to provide an electrical path for a sensed physiological condition of the desired tissue region to be communicated to the electronic circuitry, and a lead to provide an electrical ground. The medical device indicates to the MRI system, through the transceiver, when the stimulation signal will be applied to the desired tissue region. The MRI system, in response to the indication from the medical device of when the stimulation signal will be applied to the desired tissue region, terminates a production of MRI switched gradient fields.

A further aspect of the present invention is a system for reducing the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The system includes a medical device wherein the medical device has a housing having electronic circuitry therein, and leads to provide an electrical path for a stimulation signal generated by the electronic circuitry to be applied to a desired tissue region and to provide an electrical path for a sensed physiological condition of the desired tissue region to be communicated to the electronic circuitry, a sensor to sense application of switched MRI gradient fields, and an electronic component, operatively connected to the leads, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from

traveling along the leads to the electronic circuitry, and a switch, operatively connected to the sensor and the electronic component, to operatively connect the electronic component to the leads when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields and to operatively disconnect the electronic component from the leads when the sensor fails to sense the application of switched MRI gradient fields.

A further aspect of the present invention is an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region and a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region and a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region and three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The

electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils

in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region and a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region and a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient

fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

5 A further aspect of the present invention is a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region and three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI
10 switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to
15 measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively
20 connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical
25 device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; three orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured
30 strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of

operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

5 A further aspect of the present invention is a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of
10 the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient
15 fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; three
20 orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined
25 current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

30 A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical

device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

5 A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

10 A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce
15 voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched
20 gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number
25 of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

30 A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes three orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI

switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes three orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

A further aspect of the present invention is a lead for medical applications that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The lead includes two coiled

conductive strands forming a spring-like configuration such that current flows over a surface thereof, through contact points between adjacent loops of the coiled conductive strands, and an insulating coating formed over a portion of the two coiled conductive strands such that an inline inductive element is formed, the current flowing along a curvature of the two coiled conductive strands in the insulating coated portion of two coiled conductive strands.

A further aspect of the present invention is a lead for medical applications that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The lead includes two coiled conductive strands forming a spring-like configuration such that current flows over a surface thereof, through contact points between adjacent loops of the coiled conductive strands, and an adjustable resistive material formed over a portion of the two coiled conductive strands such that an inline inductive element is formed, the current flowing along a curvature of the two coiled conductive strands in the adjustable resistive material portion of two coiled conductive strands, an inductance of the inline inductive element being adjusted by adjusting the resistive properties of the adjustable resistive material.

A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a sensing circuit to voltages of conductive components in the medical device; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the sensing circuit and responsive thereto, to provide opposing voltages to the medical device to reduce the effects of induced voltages caused by changing magnetic fields.

A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a sensing circuit to detect changing magnetic fields; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the sensing circuit and responsive thereto, to synchronize application of opposing voltages to the medical device with the sensed changing magnetic fields, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

5 A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a communication circuit, communicatively linked to a MRI system, to receive information associated with a start and end of an application of changing magnetic fields produced by the MRI system; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the communication circuit and responsive thereto, to synchronize application of opposing voltages to the medical device with the sensed changing magnetic fields, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

10 A further aspect of the present invention is a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a communication circuit, communicatively linked to a MRI system, to receive information associated with a start and end of an application of changing magnetic fields produced by the MRI system; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the communication circuit and responsive thereto, to apply opposing voltages to the medical device, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The present invention may take form in various components and arrangements of components, and in various steps and arrangements of steps. The drawings are only for purposes of illustrating a preferred embodiment and are not to be construed as limiting the present invention, wherein:

25 Figure 1 is a schematic of an implanted pacemaker arrangement in a body;

Figure 2 is a schematic of a pacemaker lead comprising three conductive strands;

Figure 3 is a schematic of a sensing system used with a pacemaker;

30 Figure 4 illustrates an embodiment of a pacemaker canister according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 5 illustrates another embodiment of a pacemaker canister according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 6 illustrates a further embodiment of a pacemaker canister according to the concepts of the present invention;

5 Figure 7 is an illustration of inductive currents in conductor loops;

Figure 8 is an illustration of canceling inductive currents in conductor loops according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 9 is a schematic of an embodiment of a pacemaker lead utilizing inductive loops according to the concepts of the present invention;

10 Figure 10 is a schematic of an embodiment of inductive loops in a pacemaker canister according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 11 is a schematic of an embodiment of inductive loops around a pacemaker canister according to the concepts of the present invention;

15 Figure 12 illustrates of an embodiment of a medical device with an external voltage cancellation unit according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 13 illustrates of another embodiment of a medical device with an external voltage cancellation unit according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 14 illustrates a portion of coiled leads used in a medial device according to the concepts of the present invention;

20 Figure 15 illustrates another embodiment of a portion of coiled leads used in a medial device according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 16 illustrates a further embodiment of a portion of coiled leads used in a medial device according to the concepts of the present invention;

25 Figure 17 illustrates another embodiment of a portion of coiled leads used in a medial device according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 18 illustrates a circuit diagram representing a guide wire with an unbalancing impedance circuit according to the concepts of the present invention;

30 Figure 19 illustrates another embodiment of a circuit diagram representing a guide wire with an unbalancing impedance circuit according to the concepts of the present invention;

Figure 20 illustrates a balun used in conjunction with a guide wire according to the concepts of the present invention; and

Figure 21 is a circuit diagram representing a capacitance unbalanced balun unit according to the concepts of the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention will be described in connection with preferred embodiments; however, it will be understood that there is no intent to limit the present invention to the embodiments described herein. On the contrary, the intent is to cover all
10 alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

For a general understanding of the present invention, reference is made to the drawings. In the drawings, like reference have been used throughout to designate identical or equivalent elements. It is also noted that the various drawings illustrating the
15 present invention are not drawn to scale and that certain regions have been purposely drawn disproportionately so that the features and concepts of the present invention could be properly illustrated.

Figure 1 is a schematic showing a typical pacemaker arrangement **100**. The pacemaker comprises a pulse generator canister **102** housing a power supply (not shown) and electronic components (not shown) for sensing and producing electrical pacing
20 pulses. The pulse generator canister **102** has connected to it insulated conductive leads **104** that pass through the body (not shown) and into the heart **106**. Conventional bipolar pacemaker leads have two conductive strands, one for pacing and sensing, and the other for ground. The path of the leads **104** is generally not straight. The leads **104** have one
25 or more electrodes **112** in contact with the heart **106**. The direct line **108** from the heart **106**, where the electrodes **112** are placed, to the generator canister **102** represents a conductive path comprising body tissue (not shown) and fluids (not shown). The completed loop from the pacemaker canister **102**, through the leads **104**, and back to the
30 pacemaker canister **102** along the path **108** is subject to Lenz's law. That is, a changing magnetic field **110** through the area enclosed by the completed loop (from the pacemaker

canister **102**, through the leads **104**, and back to the pacemaker canister **102** along the path **108**) can induce unwanted voltages in the leads **104** and across the heart **106**.

In one embodiment of the present invention, and referring to Figure 1, the pacemaker canister **102** is made out of a non-conductive material. In another
5 embodiment, the canister **102** is coated or covered with various non-conductive insulating materials. This increases the overall resistance of the conductive path loop and thus reduces the voltage across the tissue between electrodes **112** and the canister **102**.

Using a three-strand lead design allows for the separation of the pacing signals from the sensing signals and allows for different filtering techniques to be utilized on
10 each separate conductive strand: one strand for the pacing signal for stimulating the heart, one conductive strand for the sensing of the heart's electrical state, pre-pulse, ecg, etc., and one strand for the ground path. Current bi-polar designs use only two conductive strands. This means that the pacing and the sensing signals are carried on the same strand.

For example, in conventional bipolar pacemaker leads, the pacing signal goes
15 "down" (from generator canister to heart) the pacing lead (conductive strand) while the sensing signal travels "up" (from heart to generator canister) the pacing lead. This is the "standard" bipolar pacing setup. If a filter is added to the pacing/sensing strand to block the switch gradient induced signal caused by a MRI system, the pacing pulse/signal must
20 travel through the filter, thereby distorting the pacing pulse.

According to the concepts of the present invention, by adding a third conductive strand, a diode, for example, can be put on the pacing strand and one or more filters can be put on the sensing strand. The filters on the sensing lead may be at the distal end of the pacemaker lead or in the generator canister. Thus, by using separate strands, the
25 present invention is able to utilize different kinds of filters (radio-frequency filters, high/low pass filters, notch filters, etc.) or other electronics in conjunction with each strand depending on the different signal characteristics and/or signal direction along the conductive strand.

Figure 2 shows a schematic of a pacemaker arrangement **120** including a
30 generator canister **122** containing a pacing pulse generator (not shown), sensing electronics (not shown) and other electronic components (not shown). Attached to the

generator canister **122** is a lead assembly **140** having three conductive strands **124**, **126**, and **128** through lumen **138**. Each of the conductive strands **124**, **126**, and **128** pass through the distal tip **142** of the lead assembly **140** to exposed electrodes **132**, **134**, and **136**, respectively. The exposed electrodes **132**, **134**, and **136** are placed in contact with or next to the heart.

Conductive strand **124** and electrode **132** are used to deliver pulses to the heart from a pacing generator within the canister **122**. Conductive strand **126** and electrode **134** are used as a ground. Conductive strand **128** and electrode **136** are utilized for sensing the electrical signals generated by the heart. In this way, the sensing functionality of pacemakers can be separated from the delivery of pacing pulses.

To block any induced voltage signals from the MRI system's changing magnetic fields (the radio-frequency or the gradient fields) from propagating along the conductive pulse delivery strand **124**, a diode **130** is inserted into the conductive strand **124** near the distal tip of the lead assembly **142**. It is noted that the diode **130** can also be placed in the generator canister **122**.

With respect to Figure 2, other electronic components (i.e. radio-frequency chocks, notch filters, etc.) may be placed into the other conductive strands **126** and **128** shown as by components **146** and **144**, respectively. It is noted that these optional electronic components **146** and **144** can be placed in the generator canister **122**.

Optional electronic components **146** and **144** are used to block or significantly reduce any unwanted induced signals caused by the MRI system from passing along conductive strands **126** and **128** respectively while allowing the desired sensing signals from the heart to pass along conductive strand **126** to electronics in the generator canister **122**.

Figure 3 is a schematic of an embodiment of the present invention. As illustrated in Figure 3, a patient **162** is located within an MRI system **168**, wherein the patient **162** has an implanted heart pacemaker pulse generator canister **164**. A surface sensor/transceiver **166** is placed on the exterior of the patient's body **162** over or near the location of the implanted pacemaker generator **164**. The sensor/transceiver **166** is in communication with the MRI system **168** via communication line **170**, which may be an MRI safe cable such as a fiber optical cable. Additionally, the sensor/transceiver **166** is

in communication with the implanted pacemaker pulse generator canister **164**. The means of communication between the sensor/transceiver **166** and the implanted pacemaker generator **164** may be acoustic, optical, or other means that do not interfere with the imaging capabilities or image quality of the MRI system. The signals may be digital or analog.

Moreover, with respect to this embodiment of the present invention, a transmitter/receiver is placed in the pacemaker canister **164** so that the MRI system **168** can be in operative communication with the pacemaker system and vice versa. Thus, the pacing system can transmit signals to the MRI system **168** indicating when the pacemaker is about to deliver a pacing pulse to the heart. The transmitted signals may be digital or analog. In response to this transmitted signal, the MRI system **168** stops or pauses the MRI switched gradient field (imaging scanning sequence) to allow the pacing pulse to occur. After the pacing pulse has been delivered to the heart, the MRI system **168** resumes or begins a new imaging scanning sequence.

In another mode of operation, the MRI system **168** sends signals to the implanted heart pacemaker pulse generator canister **164** through the sensor/transceiver **166** indicating the application of switched gradient fields. The pacemaker may use this information to switch filters or other electronics in and out of the circuit to reduce or eliminate voltages induced in the pacemaker leads by the gradient fields. For example, the pacemaker may switch in additional resistance or inductance or impedance into the pacing/sensing and/or ground strands based on the signal from the MRI system **168** signifying the application of the gradient fields.

In another configuration, there is no surface sensor/transceiver or communication line to the MRI system **168**. Instead, there is a special sensor in the implanted heart pacemaker pulse generator canister **164** that can sense the application of the gradient fields. In response thereof, the pacemaker switches into the electrical circuit of the pacing/sense and/or ground leads a charging source which is used to charge the implanted heart pacemaker pulse generator canister **164**, leads, and/or electrodes to an electrical potential opposite to that which would be induced by the gradient fields. In this way, the induced voltages caused by the gradient fields are cancelled out or reduced to a safe level, by the application of this voltage source.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the charging/voltage source receives its power from inductively coupling to the MRI system's radio-frequency field. The oscillating radio-frequency field supplies power to charge special capacitors in the implanted heart pacemaker pulse generator canister **164**. It is noted that other external power sources can be used to power the charging/voltage source in the implanted heart pacemaker pulse generator canister **164**.

Figure 4 is a diagram of an assembly **170** for the pacemaker generator components comprising the canister housing **172**, a programmable logic unit (PLU) **184**, a power source **174**, and a pulse generator **176**. Additionally, means for communicating with an external sensor/transceiver is provided by transceiver **180**. Other electronic components **178**; e.g., signal filters, signal processors, lead connectors, etc. are also located in the canister **172**. The pacing leads **182** pass through the canister **172** and connect to the internal electronics **178**. During an MRI examination, the signals transmitted and received by the transceiver **180** may be used to synchronize the MRI system's scanning sequences with the delivery of the pacing signals.

In another embodiment, as depicted in Figure 5, the pacing generator assembly **190** further includes a second power module **186** which may be an inductive coil and/or capacitor bank, suitable for capturing and storing power from the MRI system's transmitted radio-frequency signal.

In one embodiment, the power stored in the power module **186** is used to develop an electrical potential in the leads **182** that is opposed to that which is induced by the application of the MRI system's gradient fields.

In another embodiment, the power stored in the power module **186** is used to operate various switches in the electronics module **178** which may switch in or out various power surge protection circuits in-line and/or signal filters to the leads **182**.

In a further embodiment, and referring to Figure 5, the module **186** may be used to electrically charge the pacemaker canister **172**, which is made of a conductive material, in synchronization with the application of the MRI system's gradient fields so that the electrical potential difference between the pacing electrodes and the pacemaker canister **172** is reduced. That is, the sum of the induced voltage difference due to the application of the gradient fields plus the voltage difference due to the application of the

electrical charge stored in the power module **186** results is a net voltage significantly below any threshold level, above which a problem may develop.

Figure 6 depicts another assembly **200**, which includes the basic components of Figure 5 less the transceiver **180**, a gradient field detector **204**, and a by-pass switch component **202**. By detecting the gradient signal in the pacemaker canister **172** with gradient field detector **204**, the pacemaker can switch filters and/or other electronics **178** in or out of the circuit.

In one embodiment, when no gradient fields are detected, the switch **202** is closed to by-pass the electronics component **178**, which may be a combination of low-pass, high-pass, notch filters, diodes, and/or other electronics. In this mode (switched closed), the pacing pulse (and sensing signals) by-pass the filters components **178**. When gradient field detector **204** detects the gradient signals, the switch **202** is opened and any gradient fields induced signals in the leads **182** are blocked or significantly reduced by the filters components **178**. In the open mode, the pacing and sensing signals pass through the filters component **178** as well.

The gradient detector **204** may communicate the sensing of the gradient field to other components in the pacemaker via its connection to the PLU **184** so that the pacing signal can be modified, if necessary, to compensate for any distortion it may suffer by now going through the filters component **178**. Additionally, the sensing signal, now also passing through the filter components **178** may be distorted. This may be compensated for by including signal recovery/reconstruction logic into the PLU or into a separate signal-processing component.

Referring back to Figure 1, by increasing the impedance of the leads **104**, the voltage across the tissue gap from the electrodes **112** and the pacemaker canister **102** can be reduced. Inserting a resistor or using a higher resistive wire for the pacemaker leads **104** will reduce the current induced in the current loop, which includes the virtual loop portion across the (heart **112**) tissue to the pacemaker generator canister **102**.

By using various inductors in-line with the various leads **104**, it is possible to make the leads **104** have a high impedance for the low frequency MRI gradient fields frequency and a low impedance for the MRI system's radio-frequency frequency. Alternatively, different impedances (inductors/resistors/capacitors) may be switched in-

line or out of the leads' circuitry depending on the timing and application of the gradient and/or radio-frequency fields.

5 In another embodiment, not shown, the pacemakers' electronics can be augmented to include one or more digital signal processors. By converting the sensing signal into a digital signal, the digital signal processor (DSP) can reconstruct the sensing signal after it has passed through filters and has been distorted by the filtering or other elements that may have been added to the lead circuit. The DSP may also be used to reject any signals that do not have a correct cardiac signature, thus rejecting any signals caused by the switched gradient fields, which is a non-cardiac signal.

10 In another embodiment of the present invention, a pacemaker lead or other medical device, having a long conductive lead and functioning in an MRI environment, may be configured, according to the concepts of the present invention, to include additional loops to cancel the induced voltage effects in the leads of the original current loop formed by the leads.

15 In Figure 7, two conductive loops **260** and **270** having the same amount of area and in the same plane, positioned in a changing magnetic field **262** and **272**, develop currents **264** and **274**. In Figure 7, both induced currents I_1 and I_2 travel in the same direction (clockwise direction shown) at all times as the magnetic field **262** and **272** oscillate.

20 Figure 8 shows that by connecting the two conductive loops **260** and **270** of Figure 7 to form a single conductor **280**, the currents induced in each lobe can be made to cancel each other out. The two loops are connected so that a single conductor is formed which crosses over itself at **284**. In this case, as shown in Figure 8, the two currents **286** and **288** cancel each other out resulting in net current of zero magnitude around the conductor **280**. This type of configuration of conductors in a changing magnetic field may be used to cancel induced currents in the conductors.

25 Figure 9 depicts an implanted pacemaker system **220** comprising a pacing generator canister **102**, conductive leads **104**, and electrodes **112** positioned in the heart **106**. Additional loops **222** are added to the overall configuration of the lead **104** in the body with one or more crossings **224**. In accordance with the concepts of the present

30

invention, the plane of the loop **222** is in the same plane as defined by the rest of the lead geometry.

5 The same oscillating magnetic field **110** passes through loop **222** and the loop defined by generator canister **102**, conductive leads **104**, electrodes **112**, and conductive path **108** through the body from the heart **106** to the generator canister **102**. It is noted that the total area enclosed by the loops can be adjusted by adding or removing loops **222** or by changing the area enclosed by the loops (singly or collectively).

10 In one embodiment, the total area of the loop **222** is the same as the loop area **226**. In another embodiment, the total area of the loop **222** is different from loop area **226**. In another embodiment, the plane of loop **222** is different from the plane of loop area **226**. In yet another embodiment, loop **222** and/or loop area **226** do not define a single plane but are curved in three different spatial directions. In yet another embodiment, loop **222** consists of at least three loops in three orthogonal planes.

15 In a further embodiment, as illustrated in Figure 11 and will be discussed in more detail below, the new additional loops **222** can be positioned in such a way as to encircle the pacemaker's generator canister **102**. In another embodiment, as illustrated in Figure 10 and will be discussed in more detail below, the additional loops **222** may be positioned inside the pacemaker's generator canister **102**.

20 Referring back to Figure 9, a fastener (not shown) can be used at the loop cross over point **224** to allow for adjustment of the loop's enclosed area and/or orientation and, once adjusted, to lock in the loop's adjustments. This same fastener can also be used to adjust a plurality of loops.

25 In a further embodiment of Figure 9, pacemaker's generator canister **102** may include an orientation subsystem for automatically changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current. In this embodiment, the orientation subsystem may sense the magnitude of the MRI switched gradient field induced current (voltage) and spatially tune the orientation of the coils so as to produce more current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current or less current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current based upon the
30 sensed magnitude of the MRI switched gradient field induced current (voltage).

In other words, if greater current is needed to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current, the orientation subsystem would spatially move or adjust one or more coils such that their surface planes become more perpendicular to the MRI gradient field lines, thereby inducing a greater magnitude of current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current. On the other hand, if less current is needed to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current, the orientation subsystem would spatially move or adjust one or more coils such that their surface planes become less perpendicular and more parallel to the MRI gradient field lines, thereby inducing a lesser magnitude of current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In another aspect of the present invention, a selection mechanism can be included in the pacemaker system. This selection mechanism is used to adjust the number of loops to include in the circuit.

For example, if the loops are located within the pacemaker canister, the selection mechanism can be used to manually select how many loops to include in the lead circuit depending on where the pacemaker can is placed in the body and the length of the lead. Alternatively, the selection mechanism may be used to automatically select how many loops to include in the lead circuit depending on where the pacemaker can is placed in the body and the length of the lead. In this alternative embodiment, the present invention monitors the voltages on the pacemaker's lead(s) and selects a different number of loops to connect to the lead(s) to cancel any induced voltages. Lastly, the selection mechanism may be externally programmed and transmitted to the pacemaker's PLU that then monitors and adjusts the number of loops in the lead circuit.

Figure 10 is a schematic of a pacemaker system **300** that includes a pacemaker canister **302** and the pacemaker's leads **304**. The pacemaker's canister **302** contains a programmable logic unit (PLU) **306**, and other electronics **310**, e.g. a pulse generator, power supply, etc. The system **300** further includes conductive loops **308** positioned within the pacemaker canister **302**.

The conductive loops are connected to a loop selection component **312** that provides means for selectively adjusting the number of loops to be included in the leads' circuit **304**. The leads **304** are also connected to the loop selection component **312** so that the leads **304** can be electrically connected to the loops **308**.

The loop selection component **312** connects the loops **308** to the leads' circuit **304** in such a way that any induced voltages in the loops **308** caused by changing magnetic fields in the environment, e.g. an MRI environment, will cancel out or significantly reduce in magnitude any induced voltage along the leads **304** that have also been caused by the environment's changing magnetic fields.

In one embodiment, the loop selection component **312** is adjusted manually by screws, connection pins, and/or other means.

In another embodiment, the loop selection component **312** is controlled by the PLU **306**. The PLU **306** may include means for receiving loop selection instructions from an external transmitter or may include sensors that measure environmental variables, e.g. changing magnetic fields in an MRI environment. From this information, the PLU **306** dynamically adjusts the loop selection component's **312** adjustable parameters so as to change which loops are included in the leads' circuitry **304**. It is noted that the loops **308** need not be all in the same plane.

In a further embodiment of Figure 10, pacemaker's generator canister **302** may include an orientation subsystem for automatically changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current. In this embodiment, the orientation subsystem may sense the magnitude of the MRI switched gradient field induced current (voltage) and spatially tune the orientation of the coils so as to produce more current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current or less current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current based upon the sensed magnitude of the MRI switched gradient field induced current (voltage).

In other words, if greater current is needed to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current, the orientation subsystem would spatially move or adjust one or more coils such that their surface planes become more perpendicular to the MRI gradient field lines, thereby inducing a greater magnitude of current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current. On the other hand, if less current is needed to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current, the orientation subsystem would spatially move or adjust one or more coils such that their surface planes become less perpendicular and more parallel to the MRI gradient field lines, thereby inducing a lesser magnitude of current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

Figure 11 is a schematic of another pacemaker system 320. Pacemaker system 320 includes conductive loops 322 positioned externally to a pacemaker canister 302. In this embodiment, the loops 322 are connected to an input port connection 330 and to an output port connection 334 which are electrically connected to the loop selection component 324 located inside the pacemaker canister 302. Additionally, the pacemaker leads 304 are connected to an electrical connector 332 that is electrically connected to the loop selection component 324. It is noted that the conductive loops 322 need not be all in the same plane.

In a further embodiment of Figure 11, pacemaker system 320 may include an orientation subsystem for automatically changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current. In this embodiment, the orientation subsystem may sense the magnitude of the MRI switched gradient field induced current (voltage) and spatially tune the orientation of the coils so as to produce more current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current or less current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current based upon the sensed magnitude of the MRI switched gradient field induced current (voltage).

In other words, if greater current is needed to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current, the orientation subsystem would spatially move or adjust one or more coils such that their surface planes become more perpendicular to the MRI gradient field lines, thereby inducing a greater magnitude of current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current. On the other hand, if less current is needed to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current, the orientation subsystem would spatially move or adjust one or more coils such that their surface planes become less perpendicular and more parallel to the MRI gradient field lines, thereby inducing a lesser magnitude of current to oppose the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

Figure 12 depicts a medical procedure in which a catheter 406 or other medical device, e.g. a guidewire, which is comprised of conductive leads or other conductive components, may be partially inserted into a body 402 and partially external to the body. In an MRI environment, such conductive medical devices 406 can develop problems like heating, induced voltages, etc. caused by the changing magnetic fields of the MRI system. To compensate for induced currents and/or induced voltages in such devices

406, a voltage compensation unit (VCU) 410 is electrically connected to the medical device 406 via conductive leads 412 and electrical connectors 414, externally to the patient's body 402.

5 The medical device 406 is constructed with additional electrical connectors 414 to allow for easy attachment of the VCU device 410. The VCU device 410 is connected to a power supply or may have a built in power supply, e.g. batteries. The VCU device 410 has sensors built into it, which monitor the voltages of the conductive components in the medical device 406, and delivers opposing voltages to the medical device 406 to cancel out or significantly reduce any induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields
10 in an MRI (or other) environment.

Additionally or alternatively, the VCU device 410 has sensors to detect the changing magnetic fields of the MRI system and can synchronize the application of the canceling voltage with the MRI System's changing fields.

15 In another embodiment depicted in Figure 13, the VCU device 420 is connected to the MRI system 422 via communication means 424 so that the start and end of the application of the MRI system's 422 fields may be communicated to the VCU device 420. Other information that may be required (field strengths to be applied, MRI scan sequence, etc.) may also be communicated to the VCU device 420. The communication means 424 may be electrical wires/coaxial/shielded/other, optical fiber, or a radio-
20 frequency transmitter/receiver, or some sonic means of communication.

The conductive lead of a heart pacemaker is a filer winding. The filer winding may consist of two or more conductive stands coiled together in a spring-like configuration. The current (pulses, signals) then flows over the surface and through the contact points between one loop and the adjacent loop of the winding, rather than
25 following the windings of the individual conductive strands. This occurs because there is no significant insulating material or surface coating between the contact points of the windings.

In accordance with the present invention, to reduce the alternating, induced current flowing, caused by a magnetic resonance system's changing magnetic fields,
30 through the, for example, pacemaker's winding leads, the inductance value of the

pacemaker's lead may be changed to increase the overall impedance of the pacemaker's lead.

Thus in one embodiment, a suitable radio-frequency choke is inserted inline with the pacemaker's lead, preferable near the distal tip. For example, referring back to Figure 2, and to the embodiment therein, electronic component **146** and/or **144** may comprise a radio-frequency choke. In a preferred embodiment, the radio-frequency choke has an inductance value of about 10 microHenries. In another embodiment, the inductance value is about 2 microHenries.

The specific value of inductance to introduce into the, for example, pacemaker's lead depends in part on the frequency of the induced signal from the MRI system's imaging sequence that is to be blocked or significantly reduced.

Figure 14 shows a portion of a coiled multi-filer lead **450**. As illustrated in Figure 14, lead **450** includes a plurality of coil loops **452**; each coil loop **452** consists of three conductive strands **454**, **456**, and **458**. A current **460** through the lead **450** can cross contact points **464**, **466**, and **462** between the strands as well as the coil contact points **468** and **470**. Thus, the current **460** does not follow the coiling of the lead's conductive strands **454**, **456**, and **458**.

Figure 15 shows a portion of a coiled lead assembly **480** including a region **482** that has an insulating coating **484** applied to its surface. The coiled lead assembly **480** is depicted in an elongated position in which adjacent coil windings are not in contact with one another. It is to be understood that the normal, relaxed position of the lead assembly **480** has all adjacent coiled windings in contact.

With the addition of an insulated coating **484** over the winding region **482**, the current **490**, **492**, and **494** is now forced to substantially follow the curvature of the coiled winding **482**, thus forming an inductive coil inline with the conductive lead regions **486** and **488** which do not have an insulated coating. The inductive value of the created inductor can be adjusted by adjusting the length of the region to which the insulative coating **484** is applied.

It is noted that the coating **484** may be a partially resistive material. In such an example, the inductance is then adjusted by adjusting the resistive properties of the material **484**.

Figure 16 is a schematic of a coiled lead assembly **500** comprised of uninsulated regions **502**, **504**, and **506**, and coated insulated regions **508** and **510** with coatings **512**, and **514**, respectively. Through the application of the coating, the current is forced to substantially follow the curvature of the coiled windings, thus forming an inductive coil inline with the conductive lead regions that do not have a coating applied thereto. The inductive value of the created inductor can be adjusted by adjusting the length of the region to which the insulative coatings **512** and **514** are applied. In one embodiment, coatings **512** and **514** are the same coatings. In another embodiment, the coatings **512** and **514** are different materials.

It is noted that coatings **512** and **514** may be the same coating material but having differing properties, e.g., the thickness of the coatings, or the length of the coated region **508** and **510**. It is further noted that the two-coated regions **508** and **510** may have different inductive values. It is also noted that more than two different regions along the length of the lead assembly can be coated.

Figure 17 is a schematic of a portion of a coiled lead assembly **520** including at least one region **524** with a coating applied thereto. Through the application of the coating, the current is forced to substantially follow the curvature of the coiled windings, thus forming an inductive coil inline with the conductive lead regions **522** and **526** that do not have a coating applied thereto. The inductive value of the created inductor can be adjusted by adjusting the length of the region to which the insulative coating **524** is applied. Additionally, through the coated region **524** is positioned a rod **528** which also changes the inductive value of the coated region **524**. It is noted that the rod **528** may be of ferrite material. It is further noted that multiple rods can be inserted into multiple coated regions along the length of the coiled lead.

It is noted that multiple coatings can be applied to the same coated region of the coiled lead wherein the multiple coating layers may be comprised of different materials. It is further noted that one or more layers of the multiple layers of coatings may comprise ferrite material.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the heating and/or induced voltages on catheters or guide wires is controlled or substantially eliminated by introducing or creating detuned characteristic impedance at a proximal ends (ends that are

not within the body) of the catheters or guide wires. This introduction or creation of detuned characteristic impedance will be discussed in more detail with respect to Figures 18-21.

As noted above, during MRI procedures, catheters and guide wires (wire lines), with or without grounded shielding, are used to measure physiological signals. In such instances, two-wire catheters or guide wires having a grounded shield have one conductor that carries the actual measured signal and the other wire is grounded. In terms of characteristic impedance, the two-wire catheters or guide wires having a grounded shield are unbalanced. In contrast, a single wire catheter or guide wire has characteristic impedance that is balanced.

According to the concepts of the present invention, the characteristic impedance of the catheters and guide wires, used during MRI procedures, should be unbalanced at the proximal end, under all conditions, to reduce or eliminate heating and induced voltages. To realize this reduction or elimination of heating and induced voltages at the proximal end of the catheters and guide wires, used during MRI procedures, by creating an unbalanced characteristic impedance, the present invention proposes providing a Balun along the catheter and/or guide wire or at the proximal end of the catheter and/or guide wire.

Using a Balun to maintain unbalanced characteristic impedance, the reactance at the distal end of the catheter and/or guide wire approaches infinity. Thus, even when there is some potential on the wire, the unbalanced characteristic impedance has approximately four times the ground loop losses of a balanced line, thereby substantially avoiding any incident of thermal injury. An example of such an arrangement is illustrated in Figure 18.

As illustrated in Figure 18, a guide wire or catheter **650** has characteristic impedance due to its intrinsic resistance from intrinsic resistor capacitors R_P and its intrinsic inductance from intrinsic inductor L . To create the unbalanced characteristic impedance at the proximal end of the guide wire or catheter **650**, a Balun **600** is placed along the guide wire or catheter **650**. In other words, the Balun **600** is in vitro.

The Balun **600** includes a variable capacitor C_1 connected in parallel with the guide wire or catheter **650** and two variable capacitors C_2 and C_3 connected in series with

the guide wire or catheter **650**. It is noted that one end of the variable capacitor C_2 is connected to the shield **625** and ground or a known voltage. The capacitance of the variable capacitors C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 are adjusted to create the unbalanced characteristic impedance.

5 More specifically, the variable capacitors C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 may be used for both matching and providing a certain amount of balancing for the guide wire or catheter **650** characteristic impedance. In this example, the variable capacitors C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 lift the voltage on the guide wire or catheter **650** from ground. The larger the reactance of the variable capacitors C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 , the more symmetric and balanced the circuit of the
10 guide wire or catheter **650** becomes. Conversely, according to the concepts of the present invention, if the reactive capacitance of the Balun **600** is detuned (made less resonant), the circuit of the guide wire or catheter **650** becomes asymmetric and unbalanced, breaking down, to reduce the chances of thermal injury at the distal end of the guide wire or catheter **650** due to heating from induced voltages.

15 Figure 19 illustrates another embodiment of the present invention wherein a guide wire or catheter **6500** has characteristic impedance due to its intrinsic capacitance from intrinsic capacitors C_1 and C_s and its intrinsic inductance from intrinsic inductor L . To create the unbalanced characteristic impedance at the proximal end of the guide wire or catheter **6500**, a Balun **6000** is connected across the proximal end of the guide wire or
20 catheter **6500**. In other words, the Balun **6000** is outside the body at the proximal end of the guide wire or catheter **650**. By having the Balun **6000** outside the body, the varying of the reactance of the guide wire or catheter **6500** can be readily and manually controlled.

25 The Balun **6000** includes a variable capacitor C_1 connected in parallel with the guide wire or catheter **6500** and a variable capacitor C_2 connected in series with the guide wire or catheter **6500**. It is noted that one end of the variable capacitor C_1 is connected to the shield **6250** and ground or a known voltage. The capacitance of the variable capacitors C_1 and C_2 are adjusted to create the unbalanced characteristic impedance.

30 More specifically, the variable capacitors C_1 , and C_2 may be used for both matching and providing a certain amount of balancing for the guide wire or catheter **6500** characteristic impedance. In this example, the variable capacitors C_1 , C_2 , and C_3 lift the

voltage on the guide wire or catheter **6500** from ground. The larger the reactance of the variable capacitors C_1 and C_2 , the more symmetric and balanced the circuit of the guide wire or catheter **6500** becomes. Conversely, according to the concepts of the present invention, if the reactive capacitance of the Balun **6000** is detuned (made less resonant),
5 the circuit of the guide wire or catheter **6500** becomes asymmetric and unbalanced, breaking down, to reduce the chances of thermal injury at the distal end of the guide wire or catheter **6500** due to heating from induced voltages.

Figure 20 illustrates a further embodiment of the present invention wherein a guide wire or catheter **800** is connected to a Balun **700**. The Balun **700** includes a
10 variable capacitor **710**, a copper foil **720**, and a non-conductive tuning bolt **730**. The Balun **700** is further connected to the output of the probe **800**

The Balun **700** adjusts its characteristic impedance by increasing or decreasing the number wire coils are found within the copper foil **720**. The combination of the coils and the copper foil **720** forms a variable capacitor, having its impedance determined by
15 the change in the surface area of the coils positioned opposite of the copper foil **720**. As more coils are introduced into the volume created by the copper foil **720**, the capacitance of this combination increases. Moreover, as fewer coils are introduced into the volume created by the copper foil **720**, the capacitance of this combination decreases. Thus, the capacitance of the Balun **700** is adjusted to create the unbalanced characteristic
20 impedance.

Figure 21 illustrates another embodiment of the present invention wherein a guide wire or catheter **900** is electronically isolated by a voltage control unit to always appear as an unbalanced line to any possible magnetic field that may be applied from a magnetic resonance imager unit (not shown). As current begins to flow due to the changing
25 magnetic fields from the magnetic resonance imaging, a tapped voltage from a voltage-controlled oscillator in the magnetic resonance imaging unit is applied across terminals **X1** and **X2** of the voltage control unit.

According to the concepts of the present invention, to automatically maintain an unbalanced characteristic impedance at the distal end of the guide wire or catheter **900**, a capacitance unbalanced balun unit **7000**, located within the voltage control unit, is
30 connected through a variable inductor **910** to the proximal end of the guide wire or

catheter 900. In other words, the voltage control unit containing the capacitance unbalanced balun unit 7000 is outside the body at the proximal end of the guide wire or catheter 900. By having the capacitance unbalanced balun unit 7000 and variable inductor 910 outside the body, the varying of the reactance (X0) of the guide wire or catheter 900 can be readily adjusted and automatically controlled by the voltage control unit circuit's reactance to the tapped voltage from the voltage-controlled oscillator in the magnetic resonance imaging unit as it is applied across X1 and X2 for any instance of time from time zero (T0) or instantiation of the magnetic resonance imaging radio-frequency pulses.

The capacitance unbalanced balun unit 7000 includes two non-magnetic trimmer capacitors C1 and C2 connected in parallel with LC circuits (L1,C3) and (L2,C4), respectively, setting up a simplified dual T network that is effectively in series with the guide wire or catheter 900. It is noted that one end of the simplified dual T network is connected to neutral H1 and the other end is connected to a continuously variable voltage H2, based on inputs to the circuit from the voltage-controlled oscillator in the magnetic resonance imaging unit at X1 and X2. The reactance (X0) of the LC circuits in the T network is automatically adjusted to create the desired unbalanced characteristic impedance.

More specifically, the T network L1, C1, C3 and L2, C2, C4 respectively, may be used for both matching and unmatching characteristic impedance of the guide wire or catheter 900 and to provide a certain amount of balancing or unbalancing for the guide wire or catheter 900 by varying the circuit's capacitive or inductive reactance (X0).

In this example, as the voltage from the voltage-controlled oscillator in the magnetic resonance imaging unit is provided to the voltage control unit (X1 X2), the two non-magnetic trimmer capacitors C1 and C2, connected in parallel with LC circuits, (L1,C3) and (L2,C4), lift the voltage on the guide wire or catheter 900 from ground to an unbalanced state with respect to the radio-frequency pulse applied by the magnetic resonance imaging unit. The reactance of the T network and its LC circuits, (L1,C3) and (L2,C4), respectively, cause the guide wire or catheter 900 to become asymmetric and unbalanced, automatically breaking down the reactance to ensure that resonance for the

guide wire or catheter 900 is never present, thus reducing the chances of thermal injury at the distal end of the guide wire or catheter 900 due to heating from induced voltages.

In summary, the present invention is directed to a system for reducing the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level having a medical device that includes a housing having electronic circuitry therein, a first lead to provide an electrical path for a stimulation signal generated by the electronic circuitry to be applied to a desired tissue region, a second lead to provide an electrical path for a sensed physiological condition of the desired tissue region to be communicated to the electronic circuitry, and a third lead to provide an electrical ground. A diode is connected to the first lead to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the first lead to the electronic circuitry.

This embodiment of the present invention may also include a filter, connected to the second lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the second lead to the electronic circuitry; a second filter, connected to the third lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the third lead to the electronic circuitry; a sensor to sense application of switched MRI gradient fields; an electronic component, connected to the second lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the second lead to the electronic circuitry; and/or a switch, connected to the sensor and the electronic component, to operatively connect the electronic component to the second lead when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields and to operatively disconnect the electronic component from the second lead when the sensor fails to sense the application of switched MRI gradient fields.

In this embodiment the electronic component may be a filter, impedance, an inductor, a resistor, and/or a capacitor. The electronic component may be a source that generates an electrical potential opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level or a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level wherein the coil may be curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component having the coil may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a

spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

5 The electronic component may include a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting independently a number of the plurality of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields wherein the coils are curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coils to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents.

10 The electronic component may be three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting independently a number of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coils to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents wherein each coil defines a distinct plane that transverses the MRI switched gradient fields.

15 This embodiment may also include a receiver to receive a signal from a MRI system indicating an application of switched MRI gradient fields; an electronic component, operatively connected to the second lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the second lead to the electronic circuitry; and a switch, operatively connected to the receiver and the electronic component, to operatively connect the electronic component to the second lead when the receiver receives an indication of the application of switched MRI gradient fields and to operatively disconnect the electronic component from the second lead when the receiver receives a

signal indicating no application of switched MRI gradient fields. The electronic component may be a filter, impedance, an inductor, a resistor, and/or a capacitor.

5 The electronic component may be a source that generates an electrical potential opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level or a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level wherein the coil may be curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component having the coil may also
10 include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

The electronic component may include a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI
15 switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting independently a number of the plurality of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields wherein the coils are curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coils to
20 modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents.

The electronic component may be three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages
25 induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting independently a number of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing
30 a spatial orientation of the coils to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field

induced currents wherein each coil defines a distinct plane that transverses the MRI switched gradient fields.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a system for reducing the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The system includes a MRI system; a
5 medical device; and a transceiver to provide communication between the MRI system and the medical device. The medical device has a housing having electronic circuitry therein, a bi-directional lead to provide an electrical path for a stimulation signal generated by the electronic circuitry to be applied to a desired tissue region and to provide an electrical path for a sensed physiological condition of the desired tissue region
10 to be communicated to the electronic circuitry, and a lead to provide an electrical ground. The medical device indicates to the MRI system, through the transceiver, when the stimulation signal will be applied to the desired tissue region. The MRI system, in response to the indication from the medical device of when the stimulation signal will be applied to the desired tissue region, terminates a production of MRI switched gradient
15 fields.

This embodiment may further include a filter, connected to the bi-directional lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the bi-directional lead to the electronic circuitry; a filter, connected to the lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the lead to the electronic circuitry; a sensor to sense
20 application of switched MRI gradient fields; an electronic component, connected to the bi-directional lead, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the bi-directional lead to the electronic circuitry; and/or a switch, connected to the sensor and the electronic component, to operatively connect the electronic component to the bi-directional lead when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields and to operatively disconnect the electronic component from the bi-directional lead when
25 the sensor fails to sense the application of switched MRI gradient fields. The electronic component may be a filter, impedance, an inductor, a resistor, and/or a capacitor.

The electronic component may be a source that generates an electrical potential opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields so as to
30 reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level or a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be

induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level wherein the coil may be curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component having the coil may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

The electronic component may include a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting independently a number of the plurality of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields wherein the coils are curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coils to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents.

The electronic component may be three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting independently a number of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coils to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents wherein each coil defines a distinct plane that transverses the MRI switched gradient fields.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a system for reducing the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The system includes a medical device wherein the medical device has a housing having electronic circuitry therein, leads to provide an electrical path for a stimulation signal generated by the electronic circuitry to be applied to a desired tissue region and to provide an electrical path for a sensed

physiological condition of the desired tissue region to be communicated to the electronic circuitry, a sensor to sense application of switched MRI gradient fields, an electronic component, operatively connected to the leads, to significantly reduce MRI induced signals from traveling along the leads to the electronic circuitry, and a switch, operatively
5 connected to the sensor and the electronic component, to operatively connect the electronic component to the leads when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields and to operatively disconnect the electronic component from the leads when the sensor fails to sense the application of switched MRI gradient fields.

In this embodiment, the electronic component may be a source that generates an
10 electrical potential opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level or a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level wherein the
15 coil may be curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component having the coil may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

The electronic component may include a plurality of coils, each coil generating a
20 MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting independently a number of the plurality of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields wherein
25 the coils are curved in three different spatial directions. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coils to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents.

The electronic component may be three orthogonally planar coils, each coil
30 generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the leads so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level, and a switch connecting

independently a number of the coils, the number of connected coils corresponding to an amount of the voltage induced by the MRI switched gradient fields and a current level produced in each coil when the sensor senses the application of switched MRI gradient fields. The electronic component may also include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coils to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents wherein each coil defines a distinct plane that transverses the MRI switched gradient fields.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region and a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coil may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region and a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coil may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region and three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a

strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to an electrical lead component for a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The electrical lead component includes a medical device electrical lead capable of providing an electrical path to a desired tissue region; three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device,

operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region and a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coil may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region and a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a

medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region and three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; three orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of

operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

5 In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively
10 connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI
15 switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

20 In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a medical device that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The medical device includes a medical device capable of providing medical treatment to a desired tissue region; three orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and
25 a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient
30 fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a coil that generates a MRI switched gradient field induced current opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coil may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes three orthogonally planar coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current such a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the

MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes three orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a sensor to measure a strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields; and a switching device, operatively connected to the sensor and plurality of coils, to operatively connect a number of the plurality of coils in response to the measured strength of voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage control unit includes a plurality of coils, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively

connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level. The coils may be curved in three different spatial directions.

5 The embodiment may further include an orientation subsystem for changing a spatial orientation of the coil to modify the strength of the MRI switched gradient field induced current.

 In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage control unit that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals upon a medical device to a safe level.
10 The voltage control unit includes three orthogonally planar coil, each coil generating a MRI switched gradient field induced current; a transceiver to receive a signal indicating a number of coils to be connected; and a switching device, operatively connected to the transceiver and the coils, to operatively connect a number of the coils in response to the received signal indicating the number of coils to be connected such that a combination of
15 the MRI switched gradient field induced currents produced by the number of operatively connected switches provide a combined current that is opposite to that which would be induced by the MRI switched gradient fields in the medical device electrical lead so as to reduce voltages induced by the MRI switched gradient fields to a safe level.

 In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a lead for medical
20 applications that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The lead includes two coiled conductive strands forming a spring-like configuration such that current flows over a surface thereof, through contact points between adjacent loops of the coiled conductive strands, and an insulating coating formed over a portion of the two coiled conductive strands such that an inline inductive element is formed, the current
25 flowing along a curvature of the two coiled conductive strands in the insulating coated portion of two coiled conductive strands.

 This embodiment may further include a ferrite material positioned in the portion of the two-coiled conductive strands having the insulating coating formed thereon.

 In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a lead for medical
30 applications that reduces the effects of MRI induced signals to a safe level. The lead includes two coiled conductive strands forming a spring-like configuration such that

current flows over a surface thereof, through contact points between adjacent loops of the coiled conductive strands, and an adjustable resistive material formed over a portion of the two coiled conductive strands such that an inline inductive element is formed, the current flowing along a curvature of the two coiled conductive strands in the adjustable resistive material portion of two coiled conductive strands, an inductance of the inline inductive element being adjusted by adjusting the resistive properties of the adjustable resistive material.

This embodiment may further include a ferrite material positioned in the portion of the two-coiled conductive strands having the insulating coating formed thereon.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a sensing circuit to voltages of conductive components in the medical device; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the sensing circuit and responsive thereto, to provide opposing voltages to the medical device to reduce the effects of induced voltages caused by changing magnetic fields.

This embodiment may also include a power supply, such as a battery or a connection to an external power source. The embodiment may include a second sensing circuit to detect the changing magnetic fields and a compensation circuit, connected to the second sensing circuit and responsive thereto, to synchronize application of the opposing voltages to the medical device with the sensed changing magnetic fields.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a sensing circuit to detect changing magnetic fields; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the sensing circuit and responsive thereto, to synchronize application of opposing voltages to the medical device with the sensed changing magnetic fields, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

This embodiment may also include a power supply, such as a battery or a connection to an external power source.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a communication circuit, communicatively
5 linked to a MRI system, to receive information associated with a start and end of an application of changing magnetic fields produced by the MRI system; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the communication circuit and responsive thereto, to synchronize application of opposing voltages to the medical device with the sensed changing magnetic fields, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced
10 voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

This embodiment may also include a power supply, such as a battery or a connection to an external power source. The communication circuit may receive information associated with field strengths to be applied by the MRI system, and the compensation circuit would apply opposing voltages in accordance with communicated
15 applied field strengths. The communication circuit may receive the information through electrical wires, coaxial wires, shielded wires, optical fibers, and/or a radio-frequency transmitter/receiver.

In a further embodiment, the present invention is directed to a voltage compensation unit for reducing the effects of induced voltages upon a medical device to a
20 safe level. The voltage compensation unit includes a connection device to provide an electrical connection to the medical device; a communication circuit, communicatively linked to a MRI system, to receive information associated with a start and end of an application of changing magnetic fields produced by the MRI system; and a compensation circuit, operatively connected to the communication circuit and responsive
25 thereto, to apply opposing voltages to the medical device, the opposing voltages reducing the effects of induced voltages caused by the changing magnetic fields.

This embodiment may also include a power supply, such as a battery or a connection to an external power source. The communication circuit may receive information associated with field strengths to be applied by the MRI system, and the
30 compensation circuit would apply opposing voltages in accordance with communicated applied field strengths. The communication circuit may receive the information through

electrical wires, coaxial wires, shielded wires, optical fibers, and/or a radio-frequency transmitter/receiver.

While various examples and embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the spirit and scope of the present invention are not limited to the specific description and drawings herein, but extend to various modifications and changes.

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